

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising:
 - (a)- producing a plurality of amplificates of a section of the nucleic acid by amplifying said section of nucleic acid with two primers, one of which binds to a first binding sequence A' of one strand of the nucleic acid, wherein said binding sequence A' is essentially complementary to a sequence A, located on the other strand of the nucleic acid, and the other of which primer binds to a second binding sequence C, which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap A, in the presence of a probe having a binding sequence D, wherein at least a portion of D is essentially complementary to all of sequence B, wherein sequence B consists of all of the nucleotides between sequence A and binding sequence C, and wherein the probe has a reporter group and a quencher group, using a polymerase having 5' nuclease activity; and
 - (b)- detecting the nucleic acid by measuring a signal which is caused by the release of the reporter group, wherein the amplificates have a length of 75 nucleotides or less.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the binding sequence D of the probes does not overlap one of the binding sequences of the primers.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the binding sequences is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the total length of the amplificates formed with the aid of the primers have a length of less than 61 nucleotides.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the probe is labeled with a fluorescence quencher as well as with a fluorescent dye.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the primers is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein two of the primers are not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the probe is not specific for the nucleic acid to be detected.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein nucleotides which are complementary to A, G, C, and T are used in the amplification.